

Message Text

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60

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 STR-08 AGR-20

/178 W

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R 281400Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0533

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 4215

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJ: INDIAN ECONOMY: FERTILIZER EL AL.

REF: NEW DELHI 4118

1. ONE ITEM WAS INADVERTANTLY OMITTED FROM NEW DELHI 4118
KAUL ALSO TOLD ME THAT THE GOI HAD DECIDED TO ALLOCATE \$500
MILLION FOR THE PURCHASE OF FERTILIZERS IN 1974-75. IT IS DIFFICULT
TO ASSESS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS FIGURE SINCE IT DEPENDS
ON WHETHER RUPEE BLOC SUPPLIES ARE INCLUDED. ASSUMING THAT
THE ARE NOT (AND THEY SUPPLIED ROUGHLY 25 PERCENT OF INDIA'S
IMPORTS) THIS WOULD MEAN TOTAL IMPORTS FROM ALL SOURCES OF
ROUGHLY 1.1 MILLION TONS, WHICH IS ABOUT THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S
LEVEL. IF KAUL MEANT TO INCLUDE THE RUPEE BLOC, \$500 MILLION
WOULD REPRESENT A SHARP CUTBACK IN IMPORTS.

2. THE WORLD BANK CLAIMS THAT THE GOI IS PLANNING ON IMPORTS
OF 1.5 MILLION TONS. THIS IS POSSIBLE IF TWO LARGE DEALS WITH
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EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES GO THROUGH. WITHOUT THIS, A MUCH

LOWER FIGURE IS LIKELY. OTHER SOURCES ASSERT THAT 1974-75
IMPORTS OF FERTILIZER WILL BE REDUCED BUT BALANCED BY INCREASED
DOMESTIC PRODUCTION AS NW PLANTS OPEN. WE SHALL SEE.

3. THE TWO MILLION TON FIGURE FOR GRAIN PURCHASES APPEARS LOW
TO US BUT IT MAY BE AS FAR AS THE GOI IS PREPARED TO GO AT
PRESENT. ACTIVE NEGOTIATIONS ARE TAKING PLACE WITH THE CANADIANS
AND A CANADIAN OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT DELIVERY OF 1 MILLION TONS
BY MID 1974 WAS POSSIBLE. HE DIDN'T COMMENT ON LARGER AVAILA-
BILITIES.

4. THE 1972/73 PETROLEUM LEVEL WOULD REPRESENT ABOUT A 10
PERCENT CUT FROM THE CURRENT YEAR'S LEVEL.
MOYNIHAN

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